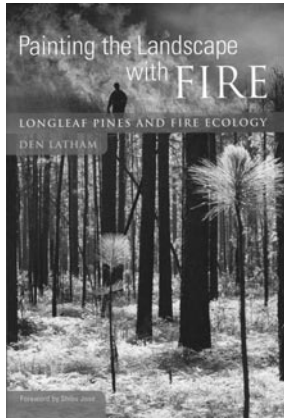


## BOOKS AND FILMS OF INTEREST

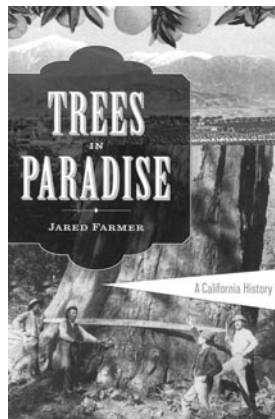
by Eben Lehman and James G. Lewis



Longleaf pine forestland once covered wide swaths of the southeastern United States, but nearly 100 million acres of the original longleaf forest has been lost; today this forest type covers only about three percent of its former range. The importance of managing and conserving the remnants of this ecosystem is the subject of Den Latham's *Painting the Landscape with Fire: Longleaf Pines and Fire Ecology* (University of South Carolina Press, 2013). A nature writer who lives in South Carolina, Latham details the importance of fire—which was militantly suppressed throughout much of the twentieth century—for promoting healthy longleaf pine forests. Without fire, the forests become dominated by thick hardwoods, which destroy the balance of the longleaf ecosystem. Today, low-intensity prescribed burns reduce longleaf's competition, keep an open canopy for sunlight, and maintain native grasses. Quail, wild turkey, and the red-cockaded woodpecker depend on the longleaf forest environment and also benefit from the prescribed burns. Latham reveals all this through fascinating interviews with foresters, fire managers, conservation groups, geologists, and wildlife biologists. They discuss the importance of the species as well as the challenges of working to sustain the long-term health of this ecosystem. Focusing on the Sandhills region of South Carolina, Latham takes the reader alongside fire crews performing prescribed burns, wildlife biologists working to save

endangered species, and many others who spend their days in the longleaf forest. Latham's work showcases the seriousness of promoting the stability of our longleaf forests, as well as the significance of fire in that process. As a whole, the book provides an insightful tour of the longleaf ecosystem, while also demonstrating the value of supporting its conservation and proper management. (EB)

California, well known as a source of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and wine, is also home to some of the world's largest, tallest, and oldest trees. In *Trees in Paradise: A California History* (W. W. Norton and Company, 2013), Jared Farmer explores the creation of this landscape alongside one hundred and fifty years of California's social and political history. Farmer follows the state's growth and development from the start of the gold rush in the mid-nineteenth

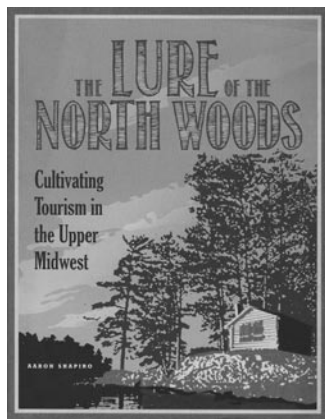


century through the beginning of the twenty-first century. Attracted by California's valuable natural resources, new settlers began to transform the state's natural landscape in significant ways. Rivers were dammed, swamps were drained, and most significantly, new plant species were introduced. Some trees that eventually became icons of California—citrus, eucalyptus, and palm—are actually nonnative species. The book is organized into four parts, each of which pairs a tree type with “a cluster of ideas and a facet of the

California Dream.” Part One looks at the state's giant sequoias and redwoods, which were clearcut by logging companies and later became the battleground for environmental showdowns. Part Two is devoted to eucalyptus trees, which were originally imported from Australasia, and explores the “themes of immigration, naturalization, nativeness, and alienness”: like the humans who brought them, eucalypts are either “naturalized” trees or invasives, depending on whom you ask. Part Three is about citrus, which offers a chance to discuss labor and the agricultural economy in the nation's most populous and urbanized state. Part Four looks at palms and their use as ornamental additions to California's built environment and as a symbol of the state itself. The study of each tree provides a new perspective on the history of the state and how human-altered landscapes created a place viewed as an almost mythical land. Farmer also shows the importance of interactions to the study of California as a place—the interactions between native and nonnative species, between domesticated nature and the wild, between settlers and a new landscape, and all the associated biocultural exchanges that helped turn California into an American symbol of paradise. (EB)

At the turn of the twentieth century, much of northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula had been deforested by massive logging operations and further stripped of natural resources by mining companies. Unsuitable for agriculture, the Upper Midwest region instead turned to tourism as a means of economic revitalization. This shift in focus is the subject of *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), by Aaron Shapiro. The book demonstrates how local and state governments, along with federal agencies, partnered with private interests to promote tourism to the North Woods over the first half of the twentieth century. The terms

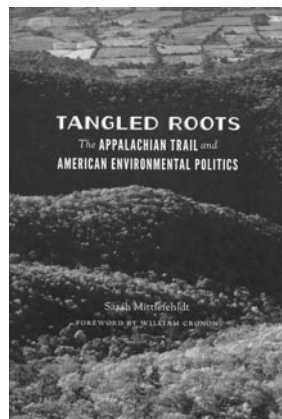
by which we determined the worth of forestland were also significantly altered during this period. Americans came to view nature as a place of leisure rather than a physical commodity because of the promotion of sound forest conservation principles that also allowed for human use. The U.S. Forest Service began to adopt new land-use policies that integrated recreation into forest management strategy. Thanks to the influence of men such as Arthur Carhart, the agency worked to achieve compromises between industry and recreation interests. These compromises helped ensure the preservation of the aesthetic qualities of forest landscapes, which in turn created an opportunity for tourist development. Shapiro looks at how these developments began to shape the North Woods as a true tourist destination.



He documents the creation of tourist facilities, the people who began vacationing in the area, and the way the region was portrayed in promotional materials. Accompanying the text are numerous historical photographs and illustrations of families on vacation, outdoor recreational activities, and examples of promotional imagery. The story of how tourism altered the natural environment is also the story of a unique set of partnerships—how local, state, and federal governments, tourist boosters, hunters and anglers, wilderness advocates, conservationists, and many others all came together to shape the future of the North Woods. (EB)

Another example of the wedding of conservation and outdoor recreation in America is the Appalachian Trail. Stretching more than 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine, the trail has demonstrated its enduring power: each year, millions of people walk at least a small part of it. The trail's location, close to the East Coast's

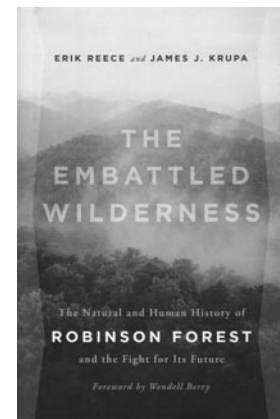
many densely populated areas, provides people a convenient retreat into a wilderness environment. How this trail came to be is the subject of Sarah Mittlefehldt's *Tangled Roots: The Appalachian Trail and American Environmental Politics* (University of Washington Press, 2013). The trail began as the vision of Benton MacKay, a forester and wilderness advocate, and local hiking groups in the 1920s and 1930s. Organized under the Appalachian Trail Conference, these local groups eventually created a continuous trail, built shelters, and published maps and guidebooks. There were struggles along the way, though. Mittlefehldt explores the sometimes contentious dynamics between rural residents and urban-based hiking enthusiasts. As interest in outdoor recreation exploded during the second half of the



twentieth century, use of the Appalachian Trail skyrocketed. The trail was eventually brought under federal protection in 1968 with the National Trails System Act, which placed it under the National Park Service. This brought new controversies over the reach of the federal government; eventually the Appalachian Trail Conservancy took over its management. Mittlefehldt's narrative deals with many important themes of twentieth-century American environmental politics, including issues relating to public-private partnerships, controversies over federal power, land management strategies, and the effects of growth on outdoor recreation. The book also reveals the collaborations that have made the trail a long-term success story. Local grassroots work by volunteers and nonprofit organizations combined with government protection have helped secure the Appalachian Trail and its corridor. Mittlefehldt brings first-hand knowledge to the subject: as part of her research she made a thru-hike in 2007, and her trail

experience informs an already engaging narrative. (EB)

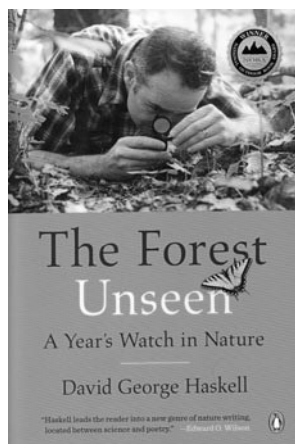
Nearly a century ago, a large tract of logged-over land was donated to the University of Kentucky to be used for the "practical demonstration of reforestation" and "the betterment of the people of the mountain region of Kentucky." The natural and human history of this landscape is the subject of *The Embattled Wilderness: The Natural and Human History of Robinson Forest and the Fight for Its Future* (University of Georgia Press, 2013), by Erik Reece and James J. Krupa. The authors, both professors at the University of Kentucky, provide a concise history of the forest ecosystem of southeastern Kentucky. They alternate chapters: Krupa focuses on the geological and ecological history of the area, and



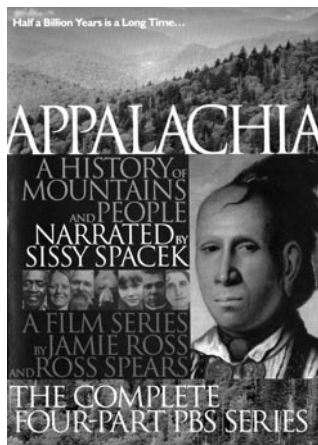
Reece details the forest's human history, from early settlers of the late eighteenth century to the present day. The human imprint on the landscape includes logging by the Mowbray and Robinson Company of Cincinnati, which hauled out 100,000 board feet of timber a day during the 1910s and had virtually cleared the terrain of trees by the early 1920s. Having no further use for the land, the company gave it to the University of Kentucky, with the stipulation that it be used as a practical demonstration of reforestation. As the forest grew back over the twentieth century, the landscape became one of the most biologically diverse in North America. More recently, though, the university sold mineral rights to portions of the forest, allowing areas to be clearcut for coal-mining operations. Lush forest areas now stand surrounded by areas made barren by strip-mining. Krupa and Reece reveal the environmental consequences of these operations while stressing the importance of maintaining distinct research forests like the Robinson. This

discussion also provides insight on how we define the value of forests. Although places like the Robinson Forest certainly have economic value in terms of their natural resources, they are also outdoor classrooms that offer invaluable knowledge on forest ecosystems to students and researchers. (EB)

Southwest of the University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest, in a forest owned by the University of the South in Tennessee, biology professor David George Haskell decided to establish a mandala—a circle about the size of a hula hoop, enclosing one square meter—in an old-growth forest and study the spot almost daily for one year. What this otherwise nondescript piece of land revealed to him, and what he shares with us, is elegantly captured in *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature* (Viking Press, 2012). Though the geographic scale is small and intimate, Haskell's perspective and observations in many ways are global and universal. In addition to being a biologist, Haskell is a published poet, and he applies a poet's insights and sensibilities whether he is talking about the life of a salamander or the place of the chainsaw in forest manage-



ment. Haskell structured the book somewhat like Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, though instead of a chapter for each month, he divides the year into days (with 43 chapters in all). Most chapters use the natural history of an animal or plant as a departure point for a discussion of larger issues like forest ecosystem health; others directly address human presence and consequences for the forest and natural world. The author's observations and reflections lead him to ask questions for all to contemplate. (JL)



The Appalachian region is the subject of a four-part environmental history series produced for PBS. *Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People* (Agee Films, 2009) weaves together human history and natural history to tell the story of the planet's oldest mountain range and its many inhabitants since the beginning of time. Historians, foresters, novelists, biologists, geologists, and others share their understanding and knowledge of America's first colonial frontier, which in many ways and places remains a colony, with its people and natural resources exploited for the benefit of remote landowners nearly 500 years after the first Europeans visited the region looking for gold. The history of the land and its occupants—and the ever-changing relationship between the two—is complex, and the series does not shy away from delving into those complexities, whether it is the geological history of how the mountain chain was formed or how white settlers went from being romanticized and revered to pitied and mocked in the span of a few short decades. This very thorough treatment is suitable for all regardless of their connection to the region because its recurring themes of conquest and development can be found in the history of so many places. With its four one-hour segments and the online educational component that is being developed, this film should be of particular interest and use for educators. (JL)

During President Richard Nixon's administration, the federal government's approach to the environment dramatically shifted: the Environmental Protection Agency was created, and landmark legislation—including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act—was passed. Although Nixon's motives were mainly

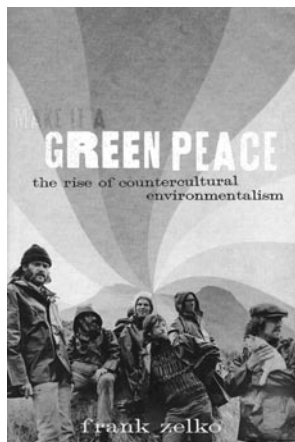
political, his actions were influenced by strong public sentiment for environmental protection. Instead of forging a partnership between the Republican Party and environmental advocates, however, the new regulations ultimately mobilized industry and politically conservative groups against further government action. In *Open for Business: Conservatives' Opposition to Environmental Regulation* (MIT Press, 2012), Judith A. Layzer traces the history of how business and conservative interests have fought the expansion of government regulations in areas such as pollution control and the conservation of natural resources from the 1970s to today. By highlighting the economic costs of environmental regulation, they have



turned environmentalism into a controversial issue for the American public. Layzer's work is organized chronologically, with individual chapters on the administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. The political treatment of acid rain and climate change are examined, as are changes in media that have helped bolster a committed conservative constituency nationwide. Although the environmental framework set under Nixon remains in place, Layzer argues that conservative political forces have succeeded in relaxing enforcement and limiting expansion of regulations while changing the terms of the national debate over the environment. Overall, Layzer's work is an essential read for those interested in environmental issues and contemporary politics. (EB)

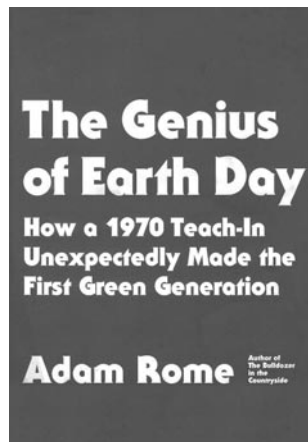
One of the leading environmental groups that conservatives loathe is the subject of *Make It a Green Peace! The Rise of Counter-cultural Environmentalism* (Oxford, 2013),





by Frank Zelko. This well-researched narrative is the first objective history of Greenpeace, which began as a small group of activists and grew into one of the most famous—or infamous—environmental advocacy groups in the world. Zelko places the formation of Greenpeace within the context of 1960s counterculture and the peace movement, documenting the young organization's radicalism and direct-action campaigns. During the early 1970s this included acting as human shields to protect seals in Newfoundland and harassing Soviet whaling boats off the coast of California. The aggressive confrontational style resonated with the era's counterculture ethos, especially in Vancouver, British Columbia, the organization's early base of operations. Ironically, an organization that traced its roots to the counterculture movement acquired a more corporate structure in the 1980s. But Greenpeace also transformed the existing framework of environmental protest, using direct action to cast activities like whaling and sealing as morally reprehensible acts. As the group grew into a global force, the scope of its actions increased. One campaign was against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, which required coordinated work among activists from many different countries. Zelko does not shy from discussing conflicts within the group over certain direct-action approaches. Although the influence of the peace movement on the organization's founders is undeniable—they came from a pacifist Quaker tradition—questionable actions by members began to push the boundaries of what was an acceptable form of protest. (EB)

The rising environmental consciousness that led to the establishment of Greenpeace, as well as the conservative backlash documented in *Open for Business*, first



emerged on a national scale in 1970, when Americans held the first Earth Day. Most people today know it as an annual event to celebrate environmental protection, but few know the full story of the event's origin and influence. Now they can, through Adam Rome's *The Genius of Earth Day: How a 1970 Teach-In Unexpectedly Made the First Green Generation* (Hill and Wang, 2013). Characterizing Earth Day as “the most famous little-known event in modern American history,” Rome sheds new historical light on the event by looking at its role in building an organizational structure for future environmental activism. Earth Day 1970 inspired an entire generation of activists who went on to forge, shape, or influence environmental policy over the coming decades. In his study, Rome looks beyond Gaylord Nelson, the Wisconsin senator whose call to action led to the first Earth Day, and documents the work of the numerous organizers who planned and executed the various events throughout the country. These events—teach-ins, demonstrations, parades, concerts—differed from place to place in their size and scope. At the University of Michigan, thousands packed the basketball arena for a kickoff to an environmental teach-in. In New York City, a stretch of Fifth Avenue was closed to traffic to help New Yorkers imagine a city without automobiles. Though the effort was decentralized, the sheer number of events and participants made Earth Day a powerful national force and served to create a new framework for environmental leadership in cities throughout the country. (EB)

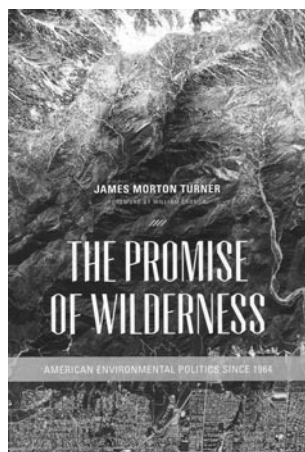
The first Earth Day succeeded in part because momentum for action had been building throughout the 1960s. Early in the decade, for example, in Milford, Pennsylvania, President John F. Kennedy



dedicated the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies at Grey Towers, the family home of Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Pinchot's son donated the home and surrounding property to the agency his father once oversaw to serve as the institute's headquarters and a meeting place for research and collaboration on the ethical and efficient management of America's natural resources. The intertwined history of the landscape and the institute that bears his name is the subject of historian and Pinchot biographer Char Miller in *Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013). Miller details the events surrounding the institute's creation in 1963, amid an emerging environmental consciousness. The Pinchot Institute began as a partnership between the Forest Service and the Conservation Foundation, a New York City-based outfit dedicated to research and study of natural resources management with a conservation emphasis. Things changed, though, after the Conservation Foundation moved to Washington and ended its collaboration, and federal funding issues threatened the institute's survival. This ultimately led to new collaborations and a sharpened focus as the institute's policymakers turned their attention to more modern and relevant issues—and in 1995 dropped the word “studies” from its name to reflect the shift to more practical work and its reconstituting as an independent non-profit corporation. The institute has focused on watershed protection, environmental health, air and water pollution, hydraulic fracking, and international forest management, among other topics. Through all the challenges the Pinchot Institute has faced, it has continued to honor Pinchot's legacy by producing

publications and pursuing projects that promote management of the American environment for its use by future generations. Miller's lively writing style makes for an effortless read and provides new insight into the evolution of modern environmental policy debates. (EB)

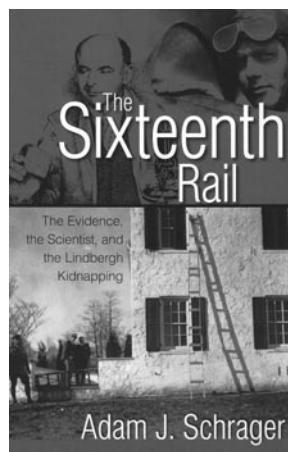
Since the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the total size of designated wilderness areas in the United States has grown dramatically, to well over 100 million acres, and wilderness issues have remained at the forefront of American environmental and political debates. The history of the modern wilderness protection movement can



be found in James Morton Turner's *The Promise of Wilderness: American Environmental Politics Since 1964* (University of Washington Press, 2012), the 2012 winner of the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award. Turner writes that "wilderness is not simply a place or an idea; it is also a political process," and his narrative weaves through the political changes following the Wilderness Act's passage. Wilderness protection initially benefited from bipartisan legislative support but became an increasingly polarizing political topic beginning in the 1970s. Alaska was a focal point of environmental politics, with battles over the Tongass National Forest and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as debates over roadless areas in national forests and the use of Bureau of Land Management lands. Later debates addressed logging and grazing reform and the protection of the northern spotted owl. Despite the clashes of environmentalists with officials over local issues, Turner emphasizes the pragmatic approach of successful wilderness advocates, such as the Wilderness Society. Through negotiation and compromise, the wilderness system has continued to

grow over the past 50 years. Wilderness and public land policy have remained central to American environmental discourse: no other issue has remained so relevant to environmental politics. Well researched and thorough, the book provides the definitive account of the modern wilderness protection movement in America. This is a must-read for those interested not just in environmental history but also in American political history over the second half of the twentieth century. (EB)

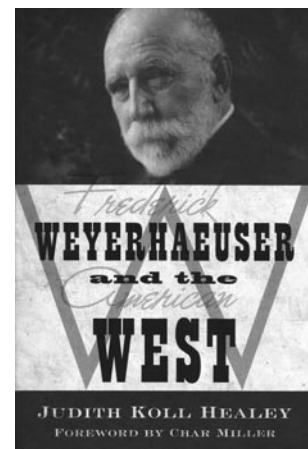
On the evening of March 1, 1932, world-famous aviator Charles Lindbergh's infant son was kidnapped from his home in New



Jersey. The investigation that followed became one of the most well-publicized crime stories of the century. Ultimately, Bruno Richard Hauptmann was convicted of the crime, based in large part on forensic work done on the wooden ladder left at the scene of the crime. This fascinating investigation is the focus of Adam J. Schrager's new book, *The Sixteenth Rail: The Evidence, the Scientist, and the Lindbergh Kidnapping* (Fulcrum, 2013). The central figure in Schrager's narrative is Arthur Koehler, who at the time of the kidnapping was a wood identification expert at the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. Through detailed analysis worthy of an episode of *CSI*, Koehler traced the wood to its source and ultimately matched one of the ladder rungs with a board in Hauptmann's attic. Schrager details this groundbreaking wood forensic work, revealing the crucial role Koehler played in the investigation and conviction of Hauptmann. Koehler's work also was important to the future of forensic science. Overall, Schrager provides an engrossing retelling of the investigation by Koehler

and the trail leading to Hauptmann. If this story seems familiar, you may have read "CSI Madison, Wisconsin: Wooden Witness," by Amanda Ross, on the Forest History Society's blog *Peeling Back the Bark*. The post provides a nice overview of the investigation and offers links to primary documents; it is online at <http://fhs.archives.wordpress.com/2009/03/31/csi-madison-wisconsin-wooden-witness>. Ross's post, which Schrager cites as a source, was later adapted for the Spring/Fall 2010 issue of *Forest History Today*. (EB)

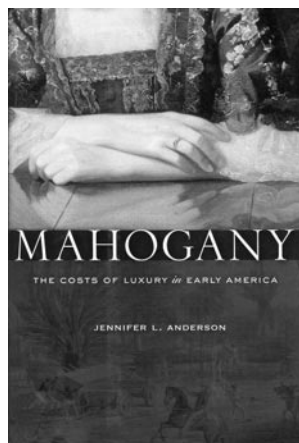
Many know the name Weyerhaeuser, but few know the full story of the man who



founded what is still one of the world's largest forest products companies. In her new biography, *Frederick Weyerhaeuser and the American West* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2013), Judith Koll Healey provides a detailed look at one of the pre-eminent industrial titans of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Frederick Weyerhaeuser arrived in the United States as an eighteen-year-old German immigrant in the decade before the Civil War. He worked various jobs before finding his true calling at a sawmill in Rock Island, Illinois. From there a combination of hard work, shrewd partnerships, and farsighted decision making led to success. Weyerhaeuser began operating his own mill, expanding into the timberlands of Wisconsin and Minnesota before ultimately purchasing 900,000 acres of land in Washington State for just \$5.4 million. Healey's book is more than a business history. Painting a full portrait, she emphasizes the importance of family to Frederick Weyerhaeuser and describes his relationships with his wife, Sarah, and his children and grandchildren. She also provides insight into his eventual commitment to

conservation in the interest of securing a reliable timber supply for the long term. Making use of newly available personal papers from the Weyerhaeuser family archives, the book is accompanied by transcripts of correspondence between Frederick Weyerhaeuser and friends, business associates, and family members. Overall, Healey produces a fascinating tale of a man who not only grew his own fortune but also helped grow an industrializing, expanding country. (EB)

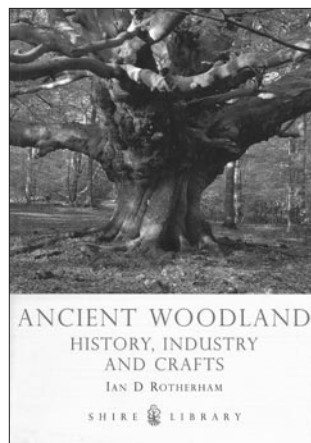
At the peak of its use in the mid-eighteenth century, mahogany wood could be found in the fashionable furniture of homes



throughout colonial America. In addition to furniture, mahogany was used for other artisan works and for more practical things like shipbuilding and construction. The wood's unique physical and aesthetic properties sent demand skyrocketing over the eighteenth century, resulting in a scarcity of mahogany from the Caribbean and Central America a century later. The rise and decline of the mahogany trade in the Americas is detailed in Jennifer L. Anderson's *Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America* (Harvard University Press, 2012). Unlike other tropical commodities, such as sugar, coffee, or bananas, mahogany does not grow well outside its natural environment: it could not be cultivated in agricultural plantations to meet the demand. The international mahogany trade had detrimental consequences for the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas, and Hispaniola, as well as parts of Central and South America, causing environmental degradation from deforestation while taking an enormous social toll because of its connections with slave labor. Anderson explicates the interwoven threads of the mahogany wood marketplace, look-

ing at the relationships among colonialism, slave labor, and a limited natural resource and showing how consumer demand for a luxury product in North America and Europe permanently shaped the social, culture, and environmental character of foreign lands. (EB)

The woodlands of Great Britain are true cultural landscapes, shaped by thousands of years of natural and human history. The story behind the formation of these unique landscapes is told in Ian Rotherham's *Ancient Woodland: History, Industry and Crafts* (Shire Publications, 2013). Rotherham writes that "to walk through an



ancient wood is to tread in the footsteps of the ghosts of those who once lived and worked in the medieval and early industrial countryside." His history of the wood pasture tradition in Britain touches on royal forests, wooded commons, and deer parks. He looks at how extractive industries and the local harvesting of woodland products defined these landscapes over time. He examines not only the places themselves but also the people who lived in and directly interacted with these parks, forests, commons, and coppice woods. These ancient forests are full of fascinating human history. Rotherham writes, "If trees have survived from centuries past, then they surely tell a story of woodland origins and management traditions." Only 60 pages long and heavily illustrated, *Ancient Woodland* provides an excellent overview of the historical uses of wood for building materials, charcoal manufacturing, wood-bark tanning, and other industries. Small-scale crafts, such as the making of baskets and brooms, are also examined. (EB)

Also from Britain comes the Botanical Series, published by Reaktion Books. Each

entry in this impressive series combines the latest scholarship in horticulture and botany with cultural and social histories of trees, flowers, and plants to offer a natural history of each species. Titles about trees include *Oak* (Peter Young), *Pine* (Laura Mason), *Yew* (Fred Hageneder), *Bamboo* (Susanne Lucas), and *Willow* (Alison Syme); other titles include *Geranium*, *Lily*, and *Grasses*. The authors come from varied backgrounds: Young is an independent scholar who has written for Reaktion's Animal Series; Mason has published on food history and culture; Lucas is executive director of the World Bamboo Organization and a horticulturalist and landscape gardener;



Hageneder has written extensively on the natural and cultural history of trees; and Syme teaches in the Departments of Art and Visual Studies at the University of Toronto. Each brings a fresh perspective to the topic and makes the subject matter accessible and a pleasure to read. The format of each book is the same: after examining the species' natural history in a global context, the author then traces its cultural history from ancient times to the present before discussing current environmental conditions and threats. Each book is sumptuously illustrated with about 100 images (usually an even split between photographs and drawings) packed into about 200 pages. One wishes the books were in a large format so that the lush color photos would have the room they deserve, but the six-by-nine-inch size helps keep the hardcover edition affordable, at \$27. Each book contains a handy history timeline and list of additional readings in the back. More than the handful of listings on the "Associations and Websites" page would be helpful and welcomed, however. Minor quibbles aside, the books are informative and ideal for classroom use. (JL) □